

assigned #1

(2007)

James Saunders

assigned is a series of pieces which is drawn from my modular composition project *#[unassigned]* (2000–9). The project led to over 150 versions of the piece, which was flexible in its construction, with each version being formed by a combination of newly composed and pre-existing modules. Each version was different, composed for a specific performance, and normally only performed once. In *assigned* a selection of the older versions of *#[unassigned]* have been made available, alongside some new pieces which use the same materials but are fixed.

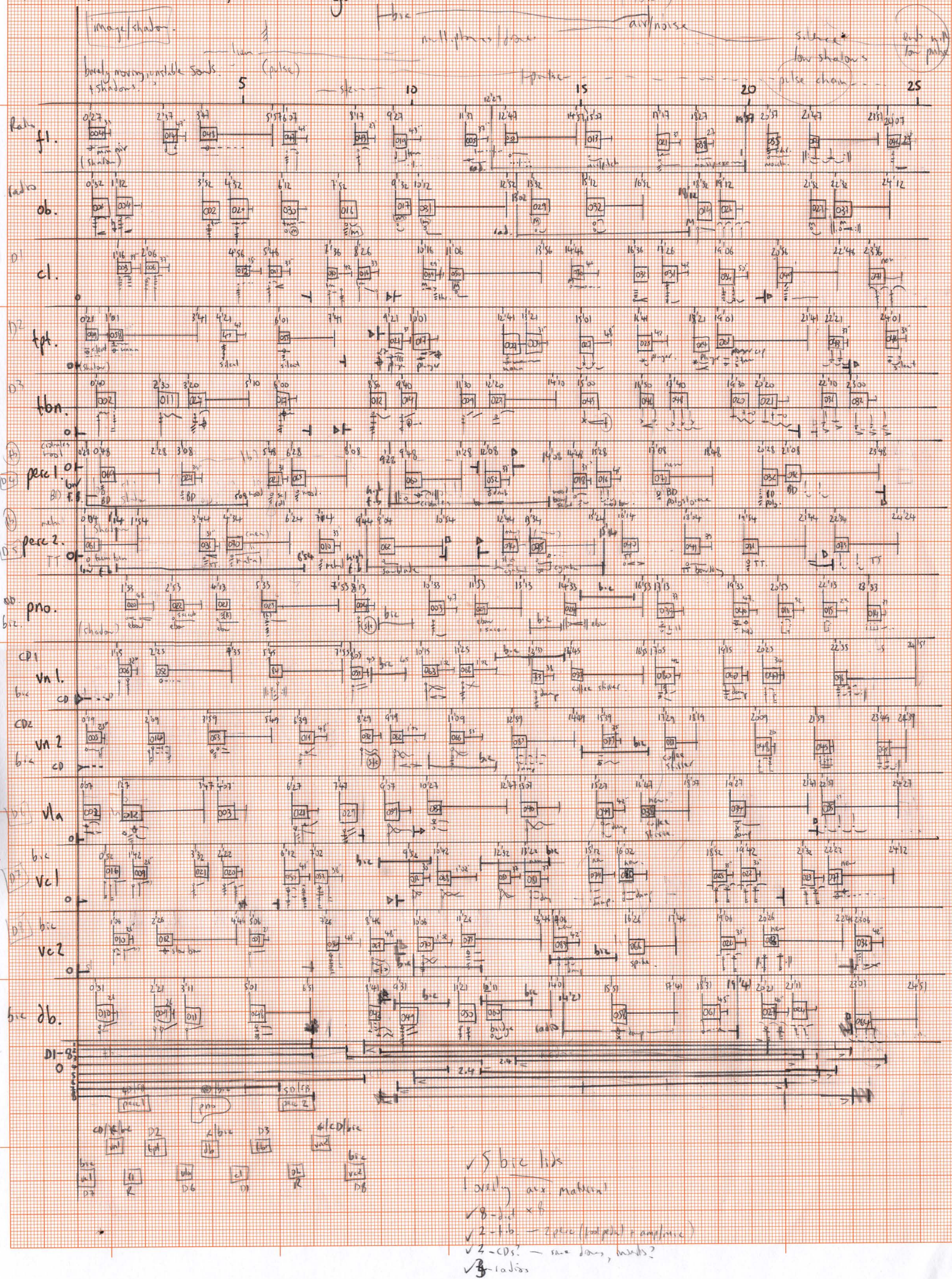
performance instructions

use a stopwatch and proceed through material according to indicated time points
o-pppp(----) on the edge of silence, sound might stop and start uncontrollably

flute	radio
oboe	radio
clarinet	dictaphone
trumpet	dictaphone
trombone	dictaphone
piano	bic lid, ebow
percussion 1	dictaphone, feedback system, CD player, bass drum, 2 wood boards, crotales, bow, polystyrene block
percussion 2	dictaphone, feedback system, CD player, tam tam, 2 metal blocks, suspended cymbal, sawblade, bow
violin 1	bic lid, coffee stirrer
violin 2	bic lid, coffee stirrer
viola	dictaphone, coffee stirrer
cello 1	dictaphone, bic lid
cello 2	dictaphone, bic lid
double bass	radio, bic lid
duration:	24'53"

assigned #11 was first performed as #211007 by Ensemble Modern at Donaueschingen Musiktage on 21 October 2007. It was commissioned by SWR/Donaueschingen Musiktage 2007.

#211007, Ensemble Modern, Donaueschingen.



James Sanders

[illegible]

33.3"

--	--

42.5"

100

o-pppp (----)

1

--	--

42.5"

--	--

27.5"

--	--

42.2"

11'37"

005

6

8

4

8

2

8

4

8

8

8

6

8

o-pppp (-----)

o-pppp (-----)

37.5"

12'27"

radio

▶

12'47"

053

8

8

8

8

ppp (<>)

14'57"

15'07"

013

6

8

8

8

2

8

6

8

4

8

8

8

pppp

o-pppp (<>)

pppp

o-pppp (<>)

42.5"

17'17"

021

4

8

8

8

12

8

2

8

6

8

pppp (-----)

pppp (-----)

35.5"

18'27"

038

8

8

6

8

8

8

o-pppp (-----)

27.5"

19'57"

radio

■

20'37"

035

4

8

2

8

4

8

8

8

6

8

o-pppp (-----)

ppp

o-pppp (-----)

ppp

o-pppp (-----)

30"

21'47"

054

7

2

ppp (<>)

23'57"

24'07"

041

6

8

8

8

2

8

6

8

ppp (<>)

ppp (<>)

27.5"

[24'53"]

James Sanders

031


10'12"

M

12'52"

ppp (<>)

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first measure contains a half note on the first line (F#4). Above the staff, a box labeled 'M' is positioned over the first measure. Above the staff, two time markers are shown: '10'12"' above the first measure and '12'52"' above the second measure. Below the staff, a dynamic marking '*ppp (<>)*' is written with a line pointing to the first measure.

radio 

radio ☐

21'52"

027

♩ = 48

5

M

5

M

40"

pp

pp

The image shows a musical score for a piece titled "The Rose Tree". The score is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/8. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 48. The score begins with a measure containing a quarter note G4, marked with a box containing the number "5". This is followed by a measure with a quarter note A4, marked with a box containing the letter "M". The next measure is a whole rest. The fourth measure is a half rest. The fifth measure is a quarter note G4, marked with a box containing the number "5". The sixth measure is a quarter note A4, marked with a box containing the letter "M". The seventh measure is a quarter note Bb4. The eighth measure is a quarter note A4. The ninth measure is a quarter note G4. The score ends with a double bar line. There are two dynamic markings, "pp", with hairpins indicating a crescendo from the first measure to the second and from the sixth measure to the seventh. The score is numbered "027" at the beginning and "40\"" at the end. A box at the top left indicates a time of "21'52\"".

8'26"

016

$\text{♩} = 54$

33.3"

ppp (<>)

ppp (<>)

ppp (<>)

10'16"

069

$\text{♩} = 42$

28.6"

pp

pppp (-----)

[throat]

14'46"

070

$\text{♩} = 36$

46.7"

pp

pppp (-----)

pp

norm.

[M]

17'26"

031

$\text{♩} = 48$

42.5"

pppp (-----)

pp

p

pppp (-----)

[throat]

19'06"

034

$\text{♩} = 48$

50"

ppp > o ppp > o

ppp > o ppp > o ppp > o ppp > o ppp > o ppp > o

pp

p

ppp > o ppp > o ppp > o ppp > o

20'56"

049

[throat]

pppp (-----)

22'46"

23'36"

071

$\text{♩} = 42$

pppp (<>)

23'36"

9'30"

dictaphone

11'06"

050

ppp (<>)

[M]

13'56"

16'36"

032

$\text{♩} = 54$

42.5"

p

pp

p

21'30"

dictaphone

[24'53"]

#[unassigned]
trumpet (version for Ensemble Modern, Donaueschingen)

James Saunders

0'00"

dictaphone

●

speed=2.4cm/s
volume=max

0'21"

silent mute

049

4'21"

silent mute

045

8'00"

dictaphone

■

⏮

speed=1.2cm/s
volume=0

9'00"

dictaphone

▶

9'21"

plunger mute

021

10'01"

plunger mute

017

12'41"

wawa mute

007

1'01"

wawa mute

058

6'01"

silent mute

055

7'41"

13'21

wawa mute

♩ = 54

[throat]

304

6/8

2 - 4 2 6 8 8

pppp (----)

[throat]

pppp (----)

31.1

15'01

plunger mute

027  47.5"

16'41"

plunger mute

025

♩ = 54

42.1

42.2

o-ppppp (---)

P

o-ppppp (---)

P

o-ppppp (---)

18'21"

plunger mute


024 $\text{♩} = 54$ [throat] $\text{♩} = 54$ [throat] 31.1"

19'01"

21'41"

22'21"

cup mute

361 

24'01"

ppm

23'00"

dictaphone

[illegible]

[24'53'']

#[unassigned]
trombone [version for Ensemble Modern, Donaueschingen]

James Saunders

0'00"

dictaphone

●

speed=2.4cm/s
volume=max

0'40"

♩=48

wawa mute

002

35"

ppp (< >) ppp ppp ppp

2'30"

♩=48

straight mute

011

35"

pp ppp p

3'20"

wawa mute

[throat]

027

o-pppp (----)

5'10"

6'00"

♩=54

plunger mute

017

34.1"

pppp (----)

7'00"

dictaphone

■

◀◀

speed=1.2cm/s
volume=0

8'00"

dictaphone

▶

○

8'50"

♩=54

straight mute

012

31.9"

pp o-pppp (----) ppp o-pppp (----) p o-pppp (----)

9'40"

♩=48

plunger mute

[throat]

014

31.3"

pppp (----)

11'30"

♩=48

straight mute

009

35"

pp pp ppp pp p

12'20"

straight mute

023

o-pppp (----)

14'10"

15'00"

plunger mute

045

21.3"

16'50"

plunger mute

[throat]

046

48.8"

17'40"

plunger mute

048

48.8"

19'30"

wawa mute

020

33.3"

20'20"

wawa mute

[throat]

021

33.3"

22'10"

straight mute

036

38.8"

23'00"

cup mute

032

41.8"

21'30"

dictaphone

■

—○

#[unassigned]
percussion 1 [version for Ensemble Modern, Donaueschingen]

James Saunders

0'00"

dictaphone

●

speed=2.4cm/s
volume=max

0'28"

low feedback

▶

0'48"

bass drum

bass drum stick

[roll]

069

||

o-pppp (----)

||

2'28"

3'08"

bass drum

soft stick

[roll] edge

027

||

8/8

o

pppp (----)

6/8

.

3/8

[roll] centre

pppp (----)

6/8

o

4/8

o

8/8

o

edge

38.9"

||

5'08"

feedback

■

5'48"

2 wood boards

metal sticks

[scratch]

minimal movement

[roll]

021

||

4/8

o

ppp

8/8

o

pppp (----)

3/8

[scratch] minimal movement

ppp

6/8

o

8/8

o

32.2"

||

6'28"

wood board

medium mallet

[roll]

065

||

o

pppp (----)

||

8'08"

9'28"

high feedback

▶

9'48"

crotales

bow

060

||

o

p

||

o

p

||

11'28"

12'00"

dictaphone

■

◀◀

speed=2.4cm/s
volume=0

12'08"

crotales

bow

[damp trem.]

052

||

6/8

o

ppp (< >)

4/8

o

6/8

o

[damp trem.]

p > ppp

2/8

o

4/8

o

[damp trem.]

p > ppp

12/8

o

[damp trem.]

37.8"

||

13'00"

dictaphone

▶

14'08"

feedback

■

14'48"

2 wood boards

[bow]

$\text{♩} = 54$

018

$\frac{4}{8}$

$\frac{12}{8}$

$\frac{4}{8}$

$\frac{8}{8}$

31.1"

ppp

[circle] scourer

ppp

[circle] scourer

15'28"

2 wood boards

[bow]

$\text{♩} = 54$

016

$\frac{6}{8}$

$\frac{4}{8}$

$\frac{12}{8}$

$\frac{4}{8}$

$\frac{8}{8}$

42.2"

ppp

[circle] scourer

ppp

[circle] scourer

17'08"

bass drum

polystyrene block

[scratch]

071

o-pppp (----)

18'48"

20'28"

bass drum

polystyrene blocks

[scratch] centre

$\text{♩} = 48$

032

$\frac{9}{8}$

$\frac{2}{8}$

$\frac{6}{8}$

$\frac{4}{8}$

$\frac{12}{8}$

41.3"

pppp (< >)

pppp (< >)

ppp

[circle] edge

ppp

[circle] edge

21'08"

bass drum

soft stick


072


pppp

23'48"

24'00"

dictaphone





#[unassigned]
percussion 2 [version for Ensemble Modern, Donaueschingen]

James Saunders

0'00"

dictaphone

●

speed=2.4cm/s
volume=max

0'04"

tam tam

bow

[minimal pressure]

061

PPPP

low feedback

▶

1'14"

1'54"

3'44"

tam tam

♩ = 54

036

6/8

o-PPPP (-----)

soft stick

[bow]

pp

4/8

12/8

[bow]

pp

6/8

31.1"

4'34"

metal block

metal stick

070

o-PPPP (-----)

6'24"

6'54"

feedback

◼

7'14"

2 metal blocks

metal sticks

♩ = 54

010

12/8

o-PPPP (-----)

[roll]

2/8

6/8

4/8

6/8

[roll]

33.3"

9'44"

high feedback

▶

9'04"

sawblade

bow

4cm from table

062

PPPP (<>)

10'54"

dictaphone

◼

◀◀

speed=2.4cm/s
volume=0

11'00"

dictaphone

▶

12'00"

12'44"

suspended cymbal

drum stick

♩ = 54

073

6/8

o-PPP (<>)

[push]*

2/8

8/8

4/8

2/8

6/8

31.1"

*hold stick vertically and pus across cymbal
producing a high harmonic screech

13'34"

suspended cymbal

bow

075

pppp (<>)

15'24"

15'34"

feedback

◼

16'14"

tam tam

♩=48

[bow]

040

4

8

12

8

6

8

pp

pp

27.5"

18'04"

tam tam

♩=54

[bow]

041

2

8

6

8

4

8

12

8

6

8

2

8

3

8

pppp

pppp

[drag] metal beater

[drag] metal beater

centre

edge

edge

centre

38.9"

19'54"

tam tam

soft stick

076

o-pppp (-----)

21'44"

dictaphone

22'30"

22'34"

tam tam

[soft stick]

073

pppp

24'24"

#[unassigned]
piano [version for Ensemble Modern, Donaueschingen]

James Saunders

1'33"

$\text{♩} = 48$ [ebow]

020

47.5"

Ped.

2'53"

$\text{♩} = 48$ [ebow on] [scrub, near bridge] [scrub, near bridge]

022

47.5"

Ped.

4'13"

$\text{♩} = 48$ [ebow on] [B] o-pppp (----)

21

37.5"

Ped.

5'33"

[H]

023

o-pppp (----)

7'53"

8'13"

$\text{♩} = 48$ [H] [B]

004

35"

ppp (----) ffff ppp (----)

Ped.

9'00"

bic lid

10'00"

o-pppp (----)

10'33"

$\text{♩} = 48$ (norm.) [H] [B] (norm.) [B] [H]

03

47.5"

o-pppp (----) ppp (----) o-pppp (----) ppp (----)

Ped.

11'53"

[ebow - screw preparation]

029

ppp

Ped.

13'13"

13'30"

bic lid

o-pppp (----)

14'30"

14'33"

15'00"

bic lid

o-pppp (----)

16'30"

16'53"

[ebow]

024

PPP
Ped.

17'13"

♩ = 48

[hold]

039 37.5"
o-pppp (----)
Ped.

19'33"

♩ = 48

[hold]

[hold]

[hold]

[hold]

040 47.5"
o-pppp (----)
o-pppp (----)

20'53"

♩ = 54

016 32.2"
[B] [H] [B] [H] [H] [B] [H] [B] [H] [B] [H] [B] [H] [B] [H] [B] [H]
PP PPP mp PPP PPP PP PPP mp PPP
Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

22'13"

♩ = 54

015 23.3"
[H] [B] [H] [B] [H] [B] [H] [B] [H] [B] [H] [B] [H] [B] [H] [B] [H]
PPP PP PPP PP PPP PP PPP PP PPP PP PPP PP PPP PP PPP
Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

23'33"

♩ = 54

014 31.1"
[B] [H] [B] [H]
PP PPP PP PPP
Ped. Ped.

[24'55"]

James Sanders

1'15"

4'35"

▶

7'55"

8'45"

9'45"

11'25"

o-pppp (----)

12'30"

bic lid

o-pppp (----)

13'35"

14'30"

073

♩ = 48

[bridge]

[damp]---

37.5"

pp

ppp

pp

ppp

pp

14'45"

coffee stirrer

[fingerboard]

087

ppp (< >)

16'55"

17'05"

♩ = 54

III.

III.

42.2"

ppp

[damp]

ppp

19'15"

♩ = 54

[bridge]

[damp]-----

[damp]-----

42.2"

o-pppp (----)

ppp

o-pppp (----)

20'25"

♩ = 54

047

ppp>ppp

ppp>○

ppp>○

ppp>○

ppp>ppp

ppp>○

34.4"

22'35"

24'55"

♩ = 54

096

ppp (< >)

#[unassigned]
 violin 2 [version for Ensemble Modern, Donaueschingen]

James Saunders

0'00"

CD

Violin 2 score, measures 005-013. The score is in 3/8 time, key of D major. It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 54. The music features a series of eighth notes and quarter notes, with dynamic markings of *ppp*, *pppp*, *ppp*, *pppp*, and *pp*. There are first and second endings marked "I." and "II." at the end of the section.

2'09"

Violin 2 score, measures 014-052. The score continues in 3/8 time, key of D major. It features a series of eighth notes and quarter notes, with dynamic markings of *ppp (< >)*, *pppp (----)*, *ppp (< >)*, and *pppp (----)*. There are first and second endings marked "I." and "II." at the end of the section.

3'59"

Violin 2 score, measures 053-059. The score continues in 3/8 time, key of D major. It features a series of eighth notes and quarter notes, with dynamic markings of *pppp (< >)*. There are first and second endings marked "I." and "II." at the end of the section.

5'49"

Violin 2 score, measures 060-068. The score continues in 3/8 time, key of D major. It features a series of eighth notes and quarter notes, with dynamic markings of *ppp*, *pppp*, *ppp*, and *pppp*. There are first and second endings marked "I." and "II." at the end of the section.

6'39"

Violin 2 score, measures 069-097. The score continues in 3/8 time, key of D major. It features a series of eighth notes and quarter notes, with dynamic markings of *ppp*, *pppp*, *ppp*, and *pppp*. There are first and second endings marked "I." and "II." at the end of the section.

8'29"

Violin 2 score, measures 098-126. The score continues in 3/8 time, key of D major. It features a series of eighth notes and quarter notes, with dynamic markings of *ppp*, *pppp (----)*, *sub. fff*, *pppp (----)*, and *ppp*. There are first and second endings marked "I." and "II." at the end of the section.

9'19"

Violin 2 score, measures 127-155. The score continues in 3/8 time, key of D major. It features a series of eighth notes and quarter notes, with dynamic markings of *ppp*, *pp*, *ppp*, *mp*, and *ppp*. There are first and second endings marked "I." and "II." at the end of the section.

The musical score for "The Great Wall" by John Cage is presented in a multi-measure format, divided into sections with specific time markers. The score includes piano (p) and prepared piano (ppp) parts, with various performance instructions and time markers.

Time Markers and Section Headers:

- 10'30"
- 11'09"
- 12'30"
- 12'59"
- 14'49"
- 15'00"
- 15'39"
- 17'00"
- 17'29"
- 18'19"
- 20'09"
- 21'59"
- 23'49"
- 24'39"
- [24'55"]

Performance Instructions and Annotations:

- bic lid**: Indicated at 10'30" and 15'00".
- coffee stirrer**: Indicated at 17'29".
- [fingerboard]**: Indicated at 17'29" and 18'19".
- [bridge]**: Indicated at 12'59" and 15'39".
- [damp]**: Indicated at 12'59" and 15'39".
- [fingerboard]**: Indicated at 15'39" and 17'00".
- [damp]**: Indicated at 15'39" and 17'00".
- [fingerboard]**: Indicated at 17'00" and 18'19".
- [damp]**: Indicated at 17'00" and 18'19".
- [fingerboard]**: Indicated at 18'19" and 20'09".
- [damp]**: Indicated at 18'19" and 20'09".
- [fingerboard]**: Indicated at 20'09" and 21'59".
- [damp]**: Indicated at 20'09" and 21'59".
- [fingerboard]**: Indicated at 21'59" and 23'49".
- [damp]**: Indicated at 21'59" and 23'49".
- [fingerboard]**: Indicated at 23'49" and 24'39".
- [damp]**: Indicated at 23'49" and 24'39".
- [fingerboard]**: Indicated at 24'39" and [24'55"].
- [damp]**: Indicated at 24'39" and [24'55"].

Dynamic Markings:

- pppp**: Indicated at 10'30", 11'09", 12'30", 12'59", 14'49", 15'00", 15'39", 17'00", 17'29", 18'19", 20'09", 21'59", 23'49", 24'39", and [24'55"].
- ppp**: Indicated at 12'59", 14'49", 15'39", 17'00", 17'29", 18'19", 20'09", 21'59", 23'49", 24'39", and [24'55"].
- pp**: Indicated at 12'59", 14'49", 15'39", 17'00", 17'29", 18'19", 20'09", 21'59", 23'49", 24'39", and [24'55"].
- ppp (>)**: Indicated at 17'29" and 21'59".
- ppp (<)**: Indicated at 17'29" and 21'59".
- ppp (> ppp)**: Indicated at 21'59".
- ppp (< ppp)**: Indicated at 21'59".
- ppp (>)**: Indicated at 23'49" and 24'39".
- ppp (<)**: Indicated at 23'49" and 24'39".
- ppp (> ppp)**: Indicated at 24'39" and [24'55"].
- ppp (< ppp)**: Indicated at 24'39" and [24'55"].

Other Annotations:

- br.**: Indicated at 11'09".
- f.b.**: Indicated at 11'09".
- =54**: Indicated at 11'09".
- =48**: Indicated at 12'59", 15'00", 17'29", 18'19", 20'09", 21'59", 23'49", 24'39", and [24'55"].
- =55.5"**: Indicated at 11'09".
- =35.5"**: Indicated at 15'39".
- =20"**: Indicated at 20'09".
- =22.5"**: Indicated at 21'59".
- =22.5"**: Indicated at 23'49".
- =22.5"**: Indicated at 24'39".
- =22.5"**: Indicated at [24'55"].

#[unassigned]
viola [version for Ensemble Modern, Donaueschingen]

James Saunders

0'00"

dictaphone 

speed=2.4cm/s
volume=max

0'07"

002 

37.5"

1'27"

036 

o-pppp (-----)

3'47"

4'07"

003 

37.5"

6'27"

021 

30"

7'47"

029 

35"

8'30"

dictaphone  

speed=1.2cm/s
volume=0

9'07"

039 

1'00"

10'15"

dictaphone 



10'27"

12'47"

13'07"

037

ppp

040

ppp

1'02.2"

15'27"

16'47"

18'07"

047

o-pppp (----) pp o-pppp (----) pp o-pppp (----)

47.5"

038

ppp (<>)

19'27"

21'47"

22'00"

22'07"

24'27"

034

o-pppp (----)

dictaphone

035

ppp

#[unassigned]
cello 1 [version for Ensemble Modern, Donaueschingen]

James Saunders

0'00"

dictaphone

●

speed=2.4cm/s
volume=max

0'52"

016

23.3"

1'42"

009

26.6"

3'32"

021

20"

4'22"

020

23.8"

6'12"

050

41.1"

7'02"

053

38.8"

6'00"

dictaphone

■

◀

speed=1.2cm/s
volume=0

9'00"

bic lid

o-pppp (----)

9'30"

9'52"

10'30"

dictaphone



br.

f.b.

=48

056

30"

p

10'42"

br.

f.b.

=48

068

1'02.2"

ppp

p

12'32"

br.

f.b.

=48

055

37.5"

p

p

13'22"

=54

[bridge]

[damp]

[fingerboard]

081

33.3"

pp

f

pp

f

pp

15'12"

=48

[bridge]

[damp]

079

47.5"

o-pppp (----)

pp

o-pppp (----)

pp

o-pppp (----)

14'00"

12'00"

bic lid

o-pppp (----)

16'02"

080

[fingerboard] → [bridge] [fingerboard] → [bridge] [fingerboard]

[damp]-----

47.5"

pp *pp*

18'52"

025

pp

35"

19'42"

022

pp

35"

21'32"

023

pp

30"

21'00"

dictaphone

o-----

22'22"

077

barely touching node, with harmonic sounding intermittently

o-pppp (----)


24'12"


[24'55"]

#[unassigned]
cello 2 [version for Ensemble Modern, Donaueschingen]

James Saunders

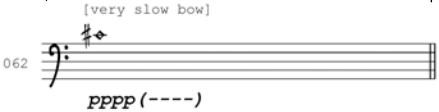
0'00"

dictaphone  speed=2.4cm/s
volume=max



010 26.3"


2'26"



062 [very slow bow]
PPPP (----)


4'46"

5'06"



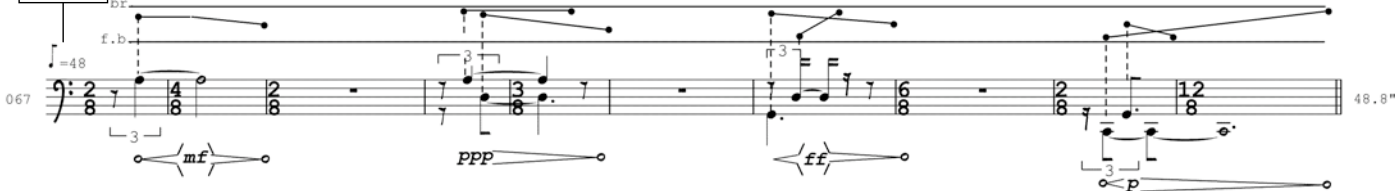
007 21.3"

7'26"





054 45"

8'46"




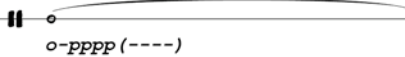
067 48.8"

9'30"

dictaphone  


10'00"

bic lid 



0-PPPP (----)

10'06"



070 1'02.5"

11'26"

12'00"

13'46"

14'00"

075

ppp (<>)

pppp (----)

pppp (----)

14'06"

16'00"

083

pp

pppp (----)

16'26"

17'46"

19'06"

066

ppp

026

pp

35"

20'26"

22'46"

23'00"

063

ppp

dictaphone

ppp

23'06"

036

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

41.3"

#(unassigned)
double bass [version for Ensemble Modern, Donaueschingen]

James Saunders

0'31"

♩ = 48

010

4/8

I.

II.

p

ppp

26.3"

2'21"

♩ = 54

009

2/8

II.

I.

II.

p

ppp

ppp

26.6"

3'11"

♩ = 48

011

4/8

I.

II.

ppp

ppp

22.5"

8'41"

♩ = 48

042

8/8

IV.

o-pppp (----)

ff

o-pppp (----)

(IV.)

47.5"

9'30"

bic lid

o-pppp (----)

9'31"

♩ = 48

049

4/8

[minimal bow movement]

ppp (<>)

35"

11'00"

5'01"

[minimal bow movement]

048

ppp (<>)

6'51"

11'21"

050

[minimal bow movement]

ppp (< >)

41.1"

12'00"

bic lid

o-*pppp* (----)

060

[side of bridge]

ppp

12'11"

13'30"

14'01"

14'21"

15'51"

17'41"

radio



18'31"

058

[damp (at nut)]
[very slow bow]

ppp (< >)

061

ppp < > *ppp* < *p* > *mp* < > *p* > *ppp* < *pp* > *ppp* < >

45"

19'41"

radio



20'21"

027

pp

40"

21'11"

024

pp

40"

23'01"

24'51"

064

ppp (< >)

[24'55"]